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Convention against Torture
and Other Cruel, Inhuman
or Degrading Treatment
or Punishment

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COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE
Sixteenth session
Geneva, 30 April-10 May 1996

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The sixteenth session of the Committee against Torture will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 30 April to 10 May 1996. The first meeting of the session will be convened on Tuesday, 30 April 1996, at 10.00 a.m. The members of the Committee will meet informally on Monday, 29 April 1996, at 10.00 a.m.

2. In accordance with rule 6 of the rules of procedure, the Secretary-General has prepared, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, the attached provisional agenda for the sixteenth session. Annotations to the provisional agenda are also attached.

3. Pursuant to rule 31 of the rules of procedure, the meetings of the Committee will be held in public unless the Committee decides otherwise or it appears from the relevant provisions of the Convention that the meetings should be held in private.

4. The attention of the States parties is drawn, in particular, to the annotations to item 7, which contain the tentative timetable for the consideration of reports at the sixteenth session. In accordance with rule 66 of the rules of procedure, representatives of States parties are invited to attend the meetings of the Committee when their reports are examined.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session by the representative of the Secretary-General.

2. Solemn declaration by the newly elected members of the Committee.

3. Election of the officers of the Committee.

4. Adoption of the agenda.

5. Organizational and other matters.

6. Submission of reports by States parties under article 19 of the Convention.

7. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 19 of the Convention.

8. Consideration of information received under article 20 of the Convention.

9. Consideration of communications under article 22 of the Convention.

10. Action by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session:

    (a) Annual report submitted by the Committee under article 24 of the Convention;

    (b) Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights.

11. Amendments to the rules of procedure of the Committee.

12. Annual report of the Committee on its activities.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the session by the representative of the Secretary-General

The sixteenth session of the Committee will be opened by the representative of the Secretary-General, who will preside over the meeting until the election of the Chairman of the Committee.

2. Solemn declaration by the newly elected members of the Committee

In accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure (CAT/C/3/Rev.1), the five members of the Committee elected at the Fifth Meeting of the States parties to the Convention on 29 November 1995 will make the following solemn declaration:

"I solemnly declare that I will perform my duties and exercise my powers as a member of the Committee against Torture honourably, faithfully, impartially and conscientiously."

3. Election of the officers of the Committee

In accordance with article 18, paragraph 1, of the Convention, and rules 15 and 16 of the rules of procedure, the Committee shall elect from among its members a chairman, three vice-chairmen and a rapporteur. The officers of the Committee shall be elected for a term of two years.

4. Adoption of the agenda

Under rule 8 of the rules of procedure, the adoption of the agenda of any session shall follow the election of officers when required under rule 15. In accordance with rule 9, during a session the Committee may revise the agenda and may, as appropriate, defer or delete items; only urgent and important items may be added to the agenda.

5. Organizational and other matters

Under this item, the Committee may wish to consider its programme of work for the session, as well as any other matter concerning the modalities of discharging its functions under the Convention.

6. Submission of reports by States parties under article 19 of the Convention

It may be recalled that in accordance with rule 65 of its rules of procedure and the Committee's decisions, the Secretary-General sends reminders automatically to those States parties whose initial reports are more than 12 months overdue and subsequent reminders every 6 months. In the case of reports which are more than three years overdue, the Chairman of the Committee, at its request, discusses the question of reporting obligations with the representatives of the States parties concerned or addresses a letter

on the subject to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as appropriate. In addition, the Committee includes information on non-compliance by States parties with their reporting obligations in its annual report to the States parties and to the General Assembly.

The situation with regard to overdue reports as at 1 February 1996 is as follows:

State party	Date on which the report was due
Initial reports	
Uganda	25 June 1988
Togo	17 December 1988
Guyana	17 June 1989
Brazil	27 October 1990
Guinea	8 November 1990
Somalia	22 February 1991
Venezuela	27 August 1992
Yugoslavia	9 October 1992
Estonia	19 November 1992
Yemen	4 December 1992
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5 March 1993
Benin	10 April 1993
Latvia	13 May 1993
Seychelles	3 June 1993
Cape Verde	3 July 1993
Cambodia	13 November 1993
Burundi	19 March 1994
Slovakia	27 May 1994
Slovenia	14 August 1994
Antigua and Barbuda	17 August 1994
Costa Rica	10 December 1994
Sri Lanka	1 February 1995
Ethiopia	12 April 1995
Albania	9 June 1995
United States of America	19 November 1995
Georgia	24 November 1995
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	11 December 1995
Namibia	27 December 1995
Second periodic reports	
Afghanistan	25 June 1992
Belize	25 June 1992
Bulgaria	25 June 1992
Cameroon	25 June 1992
France	25 June 1992
Philippines	25 June 1992
Uganda	25 June 1992
Uruguay	25 June 1992
Austria	27 August 1992

Luxembourg	28 October 1992
Togo	17 December 1992
Guyana	17 June 1993
Peru	5 August 1993
Turkey	31 August 1993
Tunisia	22 October 1993
Portugal	10 March 1994
Poland	24 August 1994
Australia	6 September 1994
Algeria	11 October 1994
Brazil	27 October 1994
Guinea	8 November 1994
New Zealand	8 January 1995
Guatemala	3 February 1995
Somalia	22 February 1995
Paraguay	10 April 1995
Malta	12 October 1995
Germany	30 October 1995
Liechtenstein	1 December 1995

7. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 19 of the Convention

A tentative timetable for the consideration of reports at the sixteenth session, prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman and subject to approval by the Committee, is given below:

Tuesday, 30 April 1996

Armenia: initial report — CAT/C/24/Add.4/Rev.1

Wednesday, 1 May 1996

Senegal: second periodic report — CAT/C/17/Add.14

Thursday, 2 May 1996

Finland: second periodic report — CAT/C/25/Add.7

Friday, 3 May 1996

China: second periodic report — CAT/C/20/Add.5

Monday, 6 May 1996

Malta: initial report — CAT/C/12/Add.7

Tuesday, 7 May 1996

Croatia: initial report — CAT/C/16/Add.6

8. Consideration of information under article 20 of the Convention

In accordance with the provisions of chapter XVII of its rules of procedure, the Committee will consider under this item information which is, or appears to be, submitted for its consideration under article 20 of the Convention.

In accordance with article 20, paragraph 5, of the Convention and rules 72 and 73 of the rules of procedure, all documents and proceedings of the Committee relating to its functions under article 20 of the Convention shall be confidential and all the meetings concerning its proceedings under that article shall be closed.

9. Consideration of communications under article 22 of the Convention

In accordance with the provisions of chapter XIX of its rules of procedure, the Committee will consider under this item communications which are, or appear to be, submitted to it under article 22 of the Convention.

In accordance with article 22, paragraph 6, of the Convention and rule 101, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure, meetings of the Committee or its subsidiary bodies during which communications under article 22 of the Convention are examined shall be closed.

10. Action by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session

(a) Annual report submitted by the Committee against Torture under article 24 of the Convention;*

(b) Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights;

Under this item, the Committee will have before it the relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session and the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-second session.

11. Amendments to the rules of procedure of the Committee

Under this item, the Committee will have before it a note by the Secretariat containing proposals made by Committee members during the fifteenth session, the consideration of which has been postponed to the present session.

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* Official Records of the General Assembly, fiftieth session, Supplement No. 44 (A/50/44).

12. Annual report of the Committee on its activities

In accordance with article 24 of the Convention, the Committee shall submit an annual report on its activities to the States parties and to the General Assembly.

At its second session, the Committee decided to adopt its annual report at the end of its spring session, for appropriate transmission to the General Assembly during the same calendar year. Accordingly, the annual report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session will include the activities of the Committee at its fifteenth and sixteenth session.